

Check against delivery

**Nuclear Security Summit
Seoul, March 26th and 27th 2012**

Speaking notes

**His Excellency the Vice-President of the Federative Republic of Brazil,
Michel Temer**

Dear Mr. President Lee Myung-bak,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great satisfaction to be here in the Republic of Korea to address this important Nuclear Security Summit on behalf of the Brazilian government.

Brazil has experienced major transformations in recent decades. Its long embedded aspirations for democracy and justice and a more equitable and peaceful international order echoed at the Constitutional Assembly. I had the honour to take part in the elaboration of the Brazilian Constitution adopted in 1988. Its text enshrines basic principles to guide our external relations, among which the peaceful settlement of disputes, international cooperation for the progress of humankind, the repudiation of terrorism, and the worldwide unprecedented commitment to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

At the regional level, Brazil – alongside other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean – took a pioneering step in establishing the first zone free from nuclear weapons in a densely populated area of the world. By means of the Tlatelolco Treaty and other instruments, we decided to proscribe, once and for all, atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in our region.

Brazil has a comprehensive and effective legislation on nuclear security and safety alike, as well as on terrorism prevention. We are parties to relevant conventions under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to several multilateral agreements against terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The tragic accident in Fukushima has drawn world attention once again to the diverse risks associated with nuclear energy. Likewise, major terrorist events over the past decade have made imperative to create a more secure environment, so as to minimise the risks and threats deriving from the illicit and criminal use of nuclear energy.

However, legitimate concerns with nuclear terrorist actions must not be misguided as a pretext to hinder the right to use or develop nuclear applications for peaceful purposes. Our efforts must aim at ensuring that nuclear energy will ever be used in a safe and secure manner, to peaceful ends, and to the benefit of all.

After all, for many countries the generation of nuclear energy will remain a key alternative to meet energy needs. And for the world at large, nuclear energy shall continue to have significant applications in fields such as medicine, agriculture, industry and scientific research, among others.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This process initiated in Washington has achieved the purpose of bringing world attention to the various aspects related to nuclear security. It is now important to reinvest our time and effort in upholding the multilateral forum in charge of these issues: the IAEA.

The 2010 Washington Summit was preceded by President Obama's speech in Prague, which stimulated important achievements such as the conclusion of the New START Treaty, and the NPT Review Conference in 2010, raising expectations that we would advance more rapidly towards a world free from nuclear weapons.

Those steps must now be underscored by a renewal of our political resolve to contemplate a timeframe conducive to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Brazil will not relinquish its duty of claiming for overall compliance with the NPT's objectives. We hope the next review cycle of the Treaty, starting within a month, will constitute an opportunity for effective engagement in the accomplishment of the nuclear disarmament actions.

The Communiqué we are to adopt at this Summit mentions events in Fukushima, and does rightly so. Yet as world leaders it our duty to act in a preventive manner with regard to possible future accidents involving nuclear weapons.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Nuclear security is the primary responsibility of each and every State, but also a concern of the international community. Thus we must work together to ensure the universal adoption of the highest standards of nuclear security. The debates we have had along this process have reinforced our conviction that the IAEA is the appropriate overarching institution to deal with the issues at hand.

Brazil reaffirms its unswerving determination to work towards accomplishing the goals of disarmament, non-proliferation, and combating terrorism, as enshrined in our national Constitution.

We will continue to actively cooperate with the international community to foster a more secure, safe and peaceful world, in which the atom and its multiple applications are devoted exclusively to the development and well-being of our societies.

Thank you very much.